

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning page 15, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The loop body 502 can include loop invariant operations that do not change as loop is executed. Generally, the efficiency of the loop structure 500a can be improved by moving the loop invariant operations outside the loop body 502. However, since there are two loop entry paths A and B., the loop invariant operations normally would be moved onto both the loop entry paths A and B. The embodiments of the present invention avoid ~~copying~~ copying the loop invariant operations to both loop entry paths by using a pre-header.--